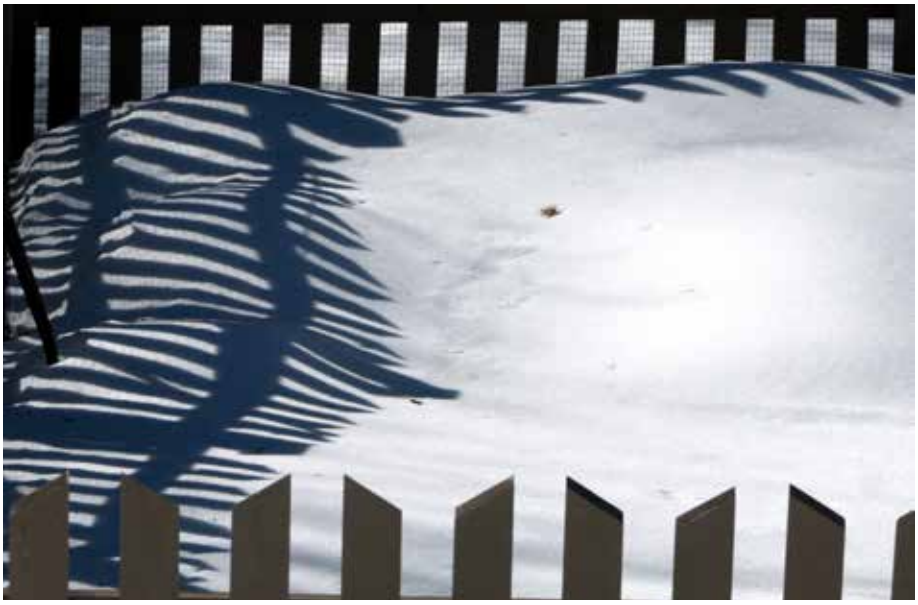
MONTEREY NEWS

March 2017

Est. 1970 Vol. XLVII · Number 3



Garden Soon*, by Pat Arnow. With late February temperatures in the 60s, some folks are worried that gardening is going to come too soon. The fruit buds are fattening much too soon before we're done with freezing temperatures.*

Daylight Savings Time
"Spring Ahead"
Sunday, March 12, at 2 a.m.

Do your part to sustain our self-governing town democracy. Our town is you and your neighbors.
Town Elections page 2

We believe that short-term steps can, and should, be taken to help slow the spread of the current e.milfoil population.
Lake Garfield Working Group page 5

I know that it is a taxpayer's right to complain about town services, and every once in a while I do complain…
Monterey's Winter Roads page 5

The sap is running, the chipmunk is up from its long sleep: spring is here.
Wildlife page 15

Stephen Moore

Winter wetland along Sandisfield Road.

"Painting for me is stepping into the unknown world of the mysterious and stepping out with something special."
Knox Gallery page 7

We have six responses to the requests for proposal (RFP) from which to make a recommendation or two to the select board for further consideration.
Broadband page 3

A protégé of Yoda, his motto is "Do, or do not. There is no try."
Two Sides of the Same Coin page 9

This was a sharp-shinned hawk, also called a chicken hawk, or pigeon hawk, or even a "small stub-winged bullet hawk."
Sharp-shins page 12

If you run out of ice and snow to play on, and it is too muddy to even take a walk, borrow a museum pass from the library.
Library news page 6

• Remembering a name you thought you'd never recall.
• The smell of freshly ground coffee.
Having a Good Day page 13

Look for my big announcement in April!

Town Party Caucuses

Monterey conducts our local elections this year on Tuesday, May 9. Many of us have expressed support for the role citizens play in running the town boards and commissions. Now is the time to step up and contribute to this process. The town Democratic and Republican town committees will meet on March 25 to select party rosters of candidates for:

Board of Appeals, 5 years
Board of Assessors, 3 years
Board of Health, 3 years
Cemetery Comm., 3 years
Finance Comm., 3 years
Library Trustee, 3 years
Library Trustee, 3 years
Moderator, 1 year
Parks Comm., 3 years
Planning Board, 5 years
Planning Board, 5 years
Select Board, 3 years
Town Clerk*, 3 years
Treasurer*, 3 years
Tree Warden, 1 year

* The positions of clerk and treasurer as elected or appointed are to be decided at the annual town meeting.

Have you considered contributing your time and focus to one of these positions? You can nominate yourself for any position by filing nomination papers with at least twenty-five certifiable voter's signatures with the town clerk. Nomination papers are available any Monday or Saturday morning at the clerk's office. The papers must be obtained by March 24 and submitted no later than the March 31 deadline. Anyone, regardless of party affiliation, can be considered for nomination by our town Democratic and/or Republican committees at our March caucus meetings.

How do you feel about Monterey residents holding key town positions, such as town clerk, or town treasurer? If you think this is important, help fill our candidate slates for these offices.

Do your part to sustain our self-governing town democracy. Our town is you and your neighbors. Contact Mark Makuc, chair of the Republican committee, at mjjminmonterey@yahoo.com, or Pat Salomon, chair of the Democratic committee, at drpatsalomon@aol.com, to let us know of your interest.

—Pat Salomon, Democratic party
Mark Makuc, Republican party

The Monterey Republican caucus will meet on Saturday, March 25, at 1:30 in the church basement. All registered Republicans are invited to attend.

The Monterey Democratic caucus will meet on Saturday, March 25, at 9 a.m., in the church basement.

The *Monterey News* is published monthly by The Monterey News Inc, PO Box 9, Monterey, MA 01245-0009.

Fiscal Year 2018 Budget
Public Finance Comm. Meeting

The Monterey Finance Committee invites residents to attend a public meeting on the proposed FY18 budget to be presented at the annual town meeting. This will be an open, working meeting and the committee will allow input from residents in attendance.

Please join us on March 20, at 6:30 p.m., at the town hall.

—Monterey Finance Committee

Town Elections
Candidate Statements

Town elections are upon us once again. Elections for town offices are on Tuesday, May 9, following town meeting the prior Saturday. If you have been nominated for an office, or filed nomination papers for yourself, you may want to publish a candidate's statement in the *Monterey News*. The paper will be happy to publish candidate statements in either the April or May issue.

The paper would also be pleased to publish letters of support for candidates. It would be helpful if you know of others who are intending to write in support of the same candidate to agree on one letter to be published.

Also, please feel free to offer a perspective on any issues to be decided at town meeting by sending a letter to the paper. Part of the mission of the paper is to encourage community conversations.

The deadline for the *Monterey News* is typically on the 20th of each month. Your letters must be signed, and can be emailed (preferred) to MontereyNews9@gmail.com, or sent first class, typed, to PO Box 9, Monterey, MA 01245.

Having a Good Day

- Getting a bill in the mail you've already paid.
- A group picture of friends where you look really good.

Every Community Has At Least One REALTOR® Like Nancy Kalodner

(In the Berkshires, it's Nancy Kalodner.)

413-528-9595

nancybenchmark@verizon.net

BENCHMARK REAL ESTATE
www.BenchmarkInTheBerkshires.com

Monterey Broadband Committee Update

We are at the point where we have a goodly number of proposals from which to make a recommendation or two to the select board for further consideration. As of this writing, six responses to the requests for proposal (RFP) have been received. These include the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI)/MassTech RFP, the Monterey-specific RFP, and the multi-town RFP (including Monterey, Sandisfield, New Marlborough, and Tolland). We are hopeful that one or two more will be received soon.

The next task is to evaluate them and get them as close to an "apples to apples" comparison as possible. The MBI/MassTech RFP had a different, more general format than the Monterey-specific and the multi-town RFP. We are following very strict guidelines defined and enforced by Monterey's Chief Procurement Officer to ensure that our process meets or exceeds state procurement law. This will ensure that our recommendations and decisions can withstand the potential for any challenges.

If we look back from where we were only a few months ago, we have made tremendous progress and are in a very good position. To go from zero interest and progress over the summer to six or more proposals is a testament to the work and efforts of all those involved.

Stephen Moore

Sycamore, Green River Road, Alford*, or alternatively,* Trying to Get a Broadband Network in South County.

The evaluation process looks at many considerations, including:

- Cost to the town (one-time or periodic);
- One-time costs to subscribers (set up, etc.);
- Ongoing subscriber costs;
- Time to deployment;
- Depth and breadth of the proposal (turn-key versus a mix of responsibilities);
- Offerings (tiers of service and optional services);
- Vendor support for public areas and municipal buildings;
- Engineering and design to ensure subscriber satisfaction and positioning for future demands;
- Reliability, serviceability, and availability (RAS);
- Financial viability of the proposer, and quality of service;
- Present subscriber satisfaction.

It is still our goal to have a recommendation to the select board during the month of March with the potential for the negotiation process to be underway by our next update.

Again, questions or comments should be sent to broadband@montereyma.gov.

—Monterey Broadband Committee

HTR
Hill Town Recycling
413.854.8866
Residential Recycling & Waste Removal at Your Curb or Doorstep
P.O. BOX 46 • SANDISFIELD, MA 01255 • HILLTOWNRECYCLING@GMAIL.COM

DR. JERROLD RAAB
Dentist
All phases of dentistry
528-6520
Route 23 Monterey

Lake Garfield Working Group
March Update

The Lake Garfield Working Group (LGWG) held its most recent meeting at town hall on February 13. The meeting included further discussions for ways to increase public engagement in the work of maintaining the Lake Garfield watershed, as well as a brief update on the progress of the 604b grant-funded lake water survey currently underway. The meeting also included discussing short-term steps that can be taken as early as this spring for potential e.mifoil mitigation efforts that the group has been exploring.

Lake Health Survey

The LGWG recognizes that strengthening the lines of communication between town residents and public servants is fundamental in identifying and understanding the social factors involved in lake management. The LGWG is currently working on a survey to gauge public opinion and concerns surrounding various lake-health related issues. This survey will help the group better understand how town residents engage with the lake and identify what key issues frame their understanding of a "healthy Lake Garfield watershed." This survey will be distributed digitally and will be made available in printed form at town hall following the LGWG's March 13 meeting. Summary results will be shared through a future *Monterey News* article.

LGWG Webpage

The LGWG has also been working to make pertinent lake research materials and working group documents available to the public in an easy, accessible format. The group is currently working to determine what content would be relevant and helpful to be included on a LGWG page of the Town of Monterey website (montereyma.gov), the launch of which will likely follow the group's March 13 meeting.

Research Update

Research on the presence of nutrients and chemicals in Lake Garfield, supported by the 604b grant that was approved at the special town meeting on October 6, 2016, is underway. Dr. Ken Wagner of Water Resource Services, Inc. is working with town administrators and will start his physical survey work in the coming months; an initial report has already been submitted to the state. The LGWG will meet with Dr. Wagner at their March 13 meeting to further discuss the details of his work, including what implications his findings may have on understanding the health of Lake Garfield. We invite town residents to join the discussion.

Recommendations to Select Board

A major topic of discussion included recommendations to the select board for short-term measures that can be taken in the late spring and early summer to address the spread of e.milfoil until a more comprehensive, ongoing management program can be developed. These recommendations, which focus on suction harvesting of e.milfoil (that are described in more detail below) are intended to serve as stop-gap measures while the LGWG works to engage and support town residents and public servants in making informed decisions regarding the ongoing management of Lake Garfield.

These efforts are intended to comply with the Wetlands Protection Act (WPA) and relevant conditions established by the Monterey Conservation Commission (which helps town residents navigate the WPA). In addition to the standard conditions set forth on any notice of intent (NOI) approved by the conservation commission, fourteen additional conditions were added to a very pertinent NOI on diver-assisted suction harvesting approved on May 12, 2015. Unless extended, this NOI is valid for three years and is available at town hall under DEP file number 230-0275.

The conditions are meant to ensure that:

- any suction harvesting is implemented in consultation with the conservation commission;
- harvesting plans and reporting are thorough; and
- the work is conducted with the utmost care for the environment.

ABC
Allentuck Building Company
Licensed & Insured Carpentry Services
in Southern Berkshire County
Home Repair Made as Simple as ABC
Josh Allentuck:
413-329-6260
Prioritize your home repair needs...
Just say HELP!

PETER S. VALLIANOS
ATTORNEY AT LAW
✤
413-528-0055
fax: 413-528-6475
email: p.vallianos@verizon.net

30 years experience in Monterey
serving your real estate needs
including purchase and sales,
zoning issues.
Board Member,
Monterey Preservation Land Trust

New location convenient to Monterey
30 Stockbridge Road (Route 7)
Great Barrington, MA 01230
(Just north of Belcher Square)

The LGWG recently submitted recommendations to the select board. The working group expressed that, though it has become apparent that eradicating e.mifoil from the lake is unrealistic, we believe that short-term steps can, and should, be taken to help slow the spread of the current e.milfoil population. The LGWG recommends the following to be conducted during this spring and early summer:

- Suction-assisted hand-pulling of plants in non-dense areas as a short-term measure to help manage spreading
- "Roping-off" of dense e.milfoil patches to limit fragmentation, and subsequent spreading, due to motor boat traffic in these areas

Administratively, these recommendations call for a request for proposals (RFP) to be issued by the select board, with related funding for the work to be placed on the warrant for the May town meeting. An RFP would determine cost and identify potential contractors to perform the work. Voters at town meeting will then decide on whether or not the town is willing to fund the work.

The letter also states that the LGWG recognizes that weed growth factors, such as phosphate, which run into the lake, contribute to the overall condition of the lake, subsequently affecting "lake health." These growth factors come in multiple forms, including detergents and failed septic systems, and can originate from both point sources (i.e., pipes leaking directly into the lake) as well as non-point sources (i.e., fertilizer entering the lake by way of groundwater and storm water runoff). The 604b grant-funded lake water survey mentioned above will provide information to better focus work in these areas if needed.

March 13 Meeting

The next LGWG meeting will be held at the town hall, March 13, at 7 p.m. Guest speaker Dr. Ken Wagner will be giving an update on his ongoing 604b-grant-supported lake water survey and answering questions at that time. The LGWG has also invited the town health agent to this meeting, and encourages all interested town residents to attend, as well.

—Eric Danforth and Dominic Stucker
Lake Garfield Working Group

P.O.Box 9
Monterey's Winter Roads

I have traveled through other towns in the southern Berkshires for the last forty years, and have always thought that the Monterey Highway Department does the best job of snow clearing in the area. On Friday, February 10, while traveling to Lee, I was particularly struck by the difference in the Monterey and Tyringham roads. Monterey roads were clear down to the blacktop, but there was snow on the roads in Tyringham. The difference was dramatic.

I know that it is a taxpayer's right to complain about town services, and every once in a while I do complain, but I think that the town services we receive are excellent, especially given our comparably low real estate taxes. Why can't some other Berkshire County towns, with larger budgets, keep the roads as clear as the Monterey Highway Department? Thank you highway department for all your hard work to keep us safe.

—Gary Shaw

ॐ

Christopher J. Tryon
& Associates
DBA:
Berkshire Geo-Technologies
CIVIL ENGINEERING

Perc Testing
Septic Design
Sewer & Water System Design
Residential & Commercial Site Design
Drainage Design
Structural Evaluation & Design
Retaining Wall Design
Foundation Design
Construction Layout
Driveway Design & Permitting
Scenic Mountain Act Permitting
Wetland Permitting
Field & Laboratory Testing of Construction Materials (Concrete & Soils)

441 Main Road
P.O. Box 61
Monterey, MA 01245
413-429-4888
berkshiregeotech@gmail.com

Serving Monterey for over 30 years Call 413-329-2054

JAY AMIDON PAINTING

Clean, Orderly, and Accommodating
Staining · Painting · Interior · Exterior · Old & New

PRECISION AUTOCRAFT INC

- AAA Approved Collision Repair
- PPG Paint Guarantee
- BBB Accredited Business
- Eco-Friendly Waterborne Paint
- Laser Frame Measuring
- Plastic Welding
- We Can Arrange for Rental Cars
- Open Mon-Fri 8:00-5:00

PERFECTING THE ART OF COLLISION REPAIR SINCE 1979
1939 N Main St (Rt 7) Sheffield MA 01257 - (413) 528-1457
www.precision-auto.com *email:* precision.auto@roadrunner.com

Monterey Library News

The library has a new wifi router for internet connections. The networks available are listed as Monterey Library Guest and should accommodate both new and old wireless devices. There is no password and it is possible to connect 24/7, so the library does not need to be open. The router is connected to the fiber network that was recently built and the speed is symmetric at 10 mbs upload and 10 mbs download. This service is there to be used, so if you don't have an internet connection, or yours is down, please feel free to come use ours. The library also has three desktop computers and printing services are available. In this technological age it is hard to get around the necessity of an internet connection.

Mud season is here as this is being written. If you run out of ice and snow to play on, and it is too muddy to even take a walk, consider borrowing a museum pass from the library and visiting our rich cultural offerings in the Berkshires. The Berkshire Museum, The Clark Art Institute, Mass MOCA, Norman Rockwell, Ventfort Hall are all open in March and April, and Hancock Shaker Village will be opening on April 15. All these passes operate differently as to full or discounted admission and for various numbers of people. Passes are available on a first come, first serve, non-reservable basis. Check availability by calling first, at 528-3795, before you come. This time of year the passes are more available than they will be in the summer season, so take advantage.

—Mark Makuc
Library Director
MontereyMassLibrary.org

Monterey Community Center News

Your community center will be ready to open in short order. The final details for the handrails for the main stairway are in progress now, as well as the last items required for our Certificate of Occupancy.

The committee is establishing fees, procedures, and policies for MCC use and scheduling. In general, there will be no cost for Monterey residents and landowners to use the facility; some events may involve a small fee (such as to pay the teacher of a class we organize). We will make the daily and weekly schedule available for view on our website (below). A telephone is being installed in the center, and you will be able to schedule time for your meeting or activity by phone with our event coordinator.

You can help us spread the word and make the center a valued part of community life by liking us on Facebook and joining our group. Bookmark our website (ccmonterey.org) for easy reference about events and activities.

You can also help us with outfitting the center with some things we need for the kitchenette. If you can donate

Pat Arnow

kitchen items in excellent condition (mugs, glasses, small and medium plates, cutlery, etc.), please call Elaine Lynch at 528-5245.

Once we are up and running, we will be asking for your suggestions for our program committee. Meanwhile, stay alert for notice that the center is open for your use; it will be quite soon.

Thank you for your support. We always welcome additional contributions.

—Friends of Wilson McLaughlin House
ccmonterey.org
PO Box 302, Monterey, MA 01245

Christopher Blair
DESIGN AND PLANNING
Residential Design
Kitchen/Bath Design
Construction Management
Project Representation
413.528.4960 17 Mahaiwe Street, Great Barrington, MA 01230

SKY VIEW FARM
micro-forestry & native lumber production
- cultivate your woods like a garden -
Sky View Farm specializes in harvesting and milling lumber from your own land for your own use.
MA licensed lumber producer
Will & Amelia Conklin | 413 229 2992
203 Galvin Farm Trail, Sheffield

Karen Shreefter Landscape Design
Working with clients to create captivating landscapes & gardens
413.528.1387
karen@kslandscapedesign.com
www.kslandscapedesign.com

Knox Gallery in March

Eleanor Bounous, Watercolorist:
A Memorial Exhibit

The Knox Gallery and the Monterey Library shout out to the family of Eleanor Bounous! As a memorial, her daughters and husband engaged with the Knox Gallery to present an exhibition of Eleanor Bounous' work and generously donated all proceeds to the library. This beautiful exhibition generated considerable interest and funds. The work is on view through March 4, so please hurry on over, join in the buying frenzy. The opening was a lot of fun for all, with Eleanor's husband, Gene, and their daughters providing a generous spread, even warming up hor d' oevres in a toaster oven in back behind the librarian's desk. We very much appreciate these generous donors. Thank you Bounous family, and library and art enthusiasts.

Arriving Where We Started: Portraits of a Family and Friends will open on Friday, March 10. Please mark your calendars and join us on Saturday, March 25, for a reception with exhibiting artists Marc Simmons and Dorene Beller from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Beller, a lifelong painter, was able to pursue her passion at long last—after she retired—at which time she happened upon some old black and white photos of her family. She was struck by their charm and simplicity.

Using gouache and a collection of vintage materials, Beller recreates collective portraits, featuring playful poses and family gatherings in a new way—simplistically rendered. Some figures sport featureless faces, inviting the viewer to become engaged in the scene, and perhaps imagine who personifies the figures.

For Simmons, retirement, after twenty-eight years as a senior accountant at University of Connecticut Health Center, likewise offered the opportunity to fully embrace the artistic direction he hoped to pursue. His "misery of working a day job and the joy of painting at night" is depicted in "Between the Lines," which was exhibited in the Knox Gallery's *between the lines* community exhibit in December and January, and was shown in the *Monterey News*.

This artist-accountant was able to explore facets of the art world as chairman of University of Connecticut's art committee for eight years, guiding exhibits and collections. Simmons asserts that he is compelled by images of the human face and the spirit it evokes; therefore, portraiture interests him especially. Like Beller, old family photos inspire Simmons. He also uses newspaper images, and has made some side explorations into abstract botanicals. The artist offers that his inspirational material ranges from naïve and self-taught painters, such as Rousseau, Gaugin, Avery, and Van Gogh, to artists from Giotto to Rembrandt, and Lucien Freud to Red Grooms.

Both Simmons and Beller are largely self-taught. Simmons states, "Painting for me is stepping into the unknown world of the mysterious and stepping out with something special."

Knox Gallery strives to offer quality exhibitions, interesting artist talks and discussions, and enjoyable community gatherings. We thank the Monterey and Massachusetts Cultural Councils for a grant that allows us to continue our artist talks and events through 2017, and thank all Monterey citizens and exhibiting artists for supporting our programs.

All exhibits can be viewed during library hours. Knox Gallery, Monterey Library, MontereyMassLibrary.org/knox-gallery.

452 Main Road, Monterey, 528-3795. Facebook.com/Knox Gallery. @ Knox_Gallery on Twitter. (There's an instagram page too…kind of.)

—MaryPaul Yates

Above—Charles © *Marc Simmons (acrylic on canvas);*

Below—Bar Mitzvah Suit © *Dorene Beller (gouache on paper)*

TRYON STONEWORKS
Native Fieldstone Walls | Landscape & Excavation Services

Enhance your landscape. Define your natural space.
Quality and experienced craftsmanship for 25 years

Professional stone & landscape design by Roger Tryon of Monterey, MA

413.528.4091 | berkshiremaple@verizon.net | tryonstoneworks.com

Community Potluck
March 15

At the February potluck, Deborah Golden Alecson facilitated a discussion of the value of life and happiness and preparedness for our eventual end. We appreciate her willingness to come back to Monterey this year, and we really enjoyed the very open, individual experiences expressed.

For the March potluck, we have John and Mary Anne Grammer from Sandisfield. They will discuss and answer questions about their work as volunteers with a Syrian family who has come to the U.S.

The next Monterey Community Potluck Dinner will be held Wednesday, March 15, in the Fellowship Hall of the Monterey Meetinghouse, at 6 p.m. Please bring a dish to share with a serving utensil, and a place setting and silverware for yourself. Everyone is welcome.

—Kyle Pierce

Farmers Market 2017

Snow on the ground means time to plan this year's farmers market. We are seeking feedback from folks who supported our market last year, and those who were unable to get to us. We are open to new vendors, and are also interested in finding local performers.

We had a great first season last year. The market ran from mid-June through September on Tuesdays from 4 to 6 at the Monterey Community Center. We are looking forward this year to offering more eggs, meat, cheese, and vegetables to our neighbors.

If you are interested in vending, volunteering, or performing, or have a comment, please email hannah.bracken@gmail.com.

—Hannah Bracken

McLaughlin-Wilson, Other Berkshire Scholarships
Applications Due April 1

Applications to the McLaughlin-Wilson scholarship fund, managed by the Berkshire Taconic Foundation, are due by April 1. Students who have lived in Monterey for the last two years of high school are eligible for scholarships ranging from $1,000 to $7,500, which may include awards over multiple years. Merit is the primary criterion with consideration for effort, community involvement, and individual circumstances.

In 2016 the McLaughlin-Wilson fund awarded $72,500 to six high school graduates and scholarship renewals to eleven older students, all from Monterey.

Thirty-one scholarship funds for students in Berkshire County are managed by Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation (BTCF). Applications must be received by April 1. Some scholarships are specifically available to students in our immediate area.

The majority of BTCF's scholarships accept one common application with a few exceptions where noted. Applications and guidelines for all the scholarships are available online at berkshiretaconic.org/SearchScholarships.

From the Meetinghouse
Two Sides of the Same Coin

Sterling's a keen observer of the world around him. He knows how to examine evidence and draw his own conclusions. When he concentrates on solving a problem, he comes up with a solution, no matter how long the process might take. He's the kind of guy you'd want on your team in the playoffs. A protégé of Yoda, his motto is "Do, or do not. There is no try."

Mary Kate Jordan

The first time we heard a meow from behind the closed door of the little woodshed in the wall next to the wood stove, we were baffled. When we opened the door, Sterling strode into the living room, proud of his feat and pleased that we'd been smart enough to find him. To help us figure out how he'd gotten in there, he repeated the adventure until we traced his route.

He'd springboard off the basement floor, trot along a room-length shelf, levitate to the top of the water heater. From there, he'd spring to an open rafter, and step delicately over it onto a heating pipe. He'd navigate the pipe in a crouch for a short way. When the space opened around him, he'd sit up, look up, calculate loft and distance, and then disappear in one nearly vertical high jump. Then he'd wait in the dark until someone opened the woodshed door, or meow if that took too long.

Once we had his route mapped out, we covered the spaces we saw him use to get in there with heavy cardboard. For months the game was no longer afoot. But Sherlock, I mean Sterling, was still on the prowl. I happened to see him on the heating pipe one day last month, so I walked over.

We made eye contact. Then he walked along the pipe to where it curved away from the wall, stepped onto a tiny ledge I hadn't noticed before. He stood up, and pulled himself through a small area where the cardboard we'd used to close off the woodshed hadn't held firm. (Further research, mine, determined that the cardboard had been significantly worked at from below.)

Happily, he's not always so intense. Yoda must have also taught him that being playful helps the Force stay with him. When he's not solving the problems of his world, Sterling's good at exercising his funny bone.

He plays marathon hide-and-seek games with me that involve several flights of stairs and numerous pieces of furniture. Left to himself, he often plays hockey with flexible plastic cat-toy springs. He'll bat them back and forth, or pounce on them like a fox hunting a small rodent hidden in a snowdrift. Sometimes he plays the clown with a produce box or a paper shopping bag. That entertains him for a long time.

Mary Kate Jordan

Sterling also likes to watch "Bird-feeder TV" from a bench beside a second-story window, right below the feeder. I watch that local station, too. On February 19, we heard a chickadee give a full-throated chick-a-dee-dee-dee, a call we hadn't heard all winter. We hoped that meant that spring is really on the way.

Maybe so. The goldfinches are starting to lose their somber winter colors. But even though their feathers are brightening, they're as argumentative and territorial as ever. Each goldfinch gets less to eat than he or she would have if the game plan contained less squawking, wing-flapping, and dive-bombing. That doesn't take into consideration all the additional time wasted glaring after the energetic contrails of the departing, currently defeated, members of the family.

They just don't get it. I'd like to tell the goldfinches the best of what Sterling's taught me: it's wonderful to stop taking life so seriously all the time. It's possible to just be blissful playing the clown in a paper bag.

Silly creatures, those goldfinches; they just don't get it. But then, dear reader, too often, neither do we.

—Mary Kate Jordan

Dean's List-Jacob Edelman

Jacob Edelman of Monterey has been named to the Fall 2016 Dean's List at Brandeis University in Waltham, Massachusetts. Edelman, a junior, is the Student Union Director of Academics, President of the Brandeis Democrats and Representative to the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee. He is majoring in Politics, Legal Studies, and History.

Bidwell House Museum
Season Highlights

The afternoons are getting longer, warm sun has melted much of the mid-February snow bounty—summer must be on its way! Restoration work at the museum is progressing well, even on the coldest days, to ensure the 1760s house is ready for opening day on Memorial Day weekend. Volunteers and staff are planning fun events, talks, and walks, which will be announced next month. Stay tuned.

But it's already time to mark your calendars with highlights: This year's opening celebration will take place on Sunday, May 28, at 3 p.m., with a concert by our favorite, Diane Taraz, returning by popular demand. We will celebrate the completion of Phase IB of the restoration (fingers crossed). You are invited. The museum will open for the season on Monday, May 29, Memorial Day, welcoming you and all visitors from near and far for house and garden tours.

Township No. 1 Day, the free community day of celebrating local history, is planned for Saturday, July 8, with some exciting new events and wholesome family fun. Have a craft, activity, or historic collection you would like to share? We'd love to have you. Please contact the museum at 528-6888 and we'll set up a table or space for you.

The summer garden party, highlight of the season, and fundraiser for your history museum, will take place on Saturday, August 5, from 4 to 7 p.m. A volunteer committee has begun planning. Can you help? Please contact Maggie Barkin (mbarkin@snet.net) or Linnea Grealish (linneagrealish@gmail.com), co-chairs. Both the planning and the event promise to be great fun.

Last year's Bidwell House Museum young scholar interns: Gabriella Makuc, Justin Makuc, Jonah Carlson, Joseph Makuc, Mayra Makuc, and Ella Carlson.

The museum is looking forward to a great season: high school and college internships, history talks, and nature walks. The Greenagers are returning for more trail work. Details, as well as the museum's full schedule of programs, will be announced next month.

In the meantime, you are invited to take advantage of the Bidwell trails for snowshoeing, nature watching, or tracking (if Mother Nature blesses us with more snow). The 192-acre property is maintained for you. Thank you for supporting your local history museum.

—Barbara Palmer
Executive Director
BidwellHouseMuseum.org

Bidwell House Museum
Summer Internships Available

The Bidwell House Museum offers high school students with an interest in history, particularly local Berkshire colonial history, the opportunity to become a young history scholar intern during the summer. There is also a possible opening for a college student.

High school interns spend two weeks at the museum. In week one the intern learns about colonial Berkshire history, the Bidwell family, the house, the property, and the collection, and how docents give tours. In week two each intern chooses a research topic and begins to give tours of the museum as a junior docent. Junior docents are visitors' favorites.

Thanks in part to grants from the Great Barrington, Monterey, and Lenox Cultural Councils, as well as private sponsors and friends of the museum, each high school intern receives a $200 stipend for the two-week internship.

Applications are on the museum's website, bidwellhousemuseum.org. Priority deadline: April 30th. Applications for the summer 2017 season will be accepted until all positions are filled. Please call or email Barbara Palmer with any questions at bidwellhouse@gmail.com, 528-6888.

ॐ

Dream Cycles

I've talked to people all my life,
Loving what they had to say
About giving up their dreams,
The most terrible price to pay.

They're all responsible citizens
And their families are their pride
But something down inside their soul
Has shriveled up and died.

Now they dream for their children,
Hoping they never make
Choices that make their lives
Seem like an endless mistake.

He was to be an actor
That one, a baseball star.
Now they stand and wonder
When they arrived where they are.

The dreams could fill a volume
Dancer, singer, and poet
Somehow we all get lost
Long before we know it

But our thread-bare dreams
Help to strengthen the seams
Of the fabric we give our children
To shape and fashion THEIR dreams.

So in their dying our dreams gave life,
To the hope our children will do
The things we never dared to chance
And make THEIR dreams come true.

But, in truth, our children will stand,
Where we are standing now
Hoping their children find the way
To fulfill their dreams, somehow.

—Bruce W. Snow Sr., April 1997

tie a knot (a wedding song)

try to tie a knot
that's not so tight
it binds or blinds
or blocks the flow
of air or blood or chi.

but also not so loose
it loses purpose
in its purported score
nor holds together
what it tempts to tether

try to tie a swirl
of beautiful curls
of circular worlds
that by gravity
hold yet hasten levity.

—Boney Oscar, for A & A, October 2016

The Life

He'd stop the clock when she came in the room—
her grin that flicked the switch of every lamp
and poked the fire driving out the damp
and made the faded wall-paper flowers bloom

and made him feel a keenness in his heart
and think he must be handsome after all.
His trick of stopping time was just to stall—
before their talk of kids and chores could start

he'd turn back to his book and frown or sigh
so all the light bulbs flickered and the room
was cast half-back into the gloom
her coming had dispelled. While she stood by,

he'd grunt and jab the hearth until a spark
reared up to make her smile in the dark.

—Don Barkin

Houses: New and Selected Poems, by Don Barkin. Don's last collection, *That Dark Lake*, was a finalist for the Connecticut Book Awards. These poems are both domestic and accessible, including many in rhyme and meter.

Sharp-shins,
The Small Blue-Grey Hawks

Life around the bird feeder can be like a movie made with an old hand-cranked camera. Birds pop in and out at high speed and you wish they'd settle so you can get a good look. Then, suddenly, they will all freeze. You get a good look, but you might wonder what's going on here.

Probably the little birds are holding still so they can be invisible. This works best on the woods floor or on tree bark, or any place that is the color of a bird. It even works well on a bird feeder, because the point is to avoid catching the eye of a predator, in this case, a hawk. Any movement can be fatal. We've heard of the "fight or flight" response to danger, but the third one is "freeze," and sometimes it is the best choice.

When small birds freeze, look around for a hawk. The hawk may be holding still also, hoping to be invisible to the little birds, but sometimes a hawk hunts on the wing, and the moving bird or its shadow can trigger a freeze in the neighborhood.

A sharp-eyed spotter on New Marlborough Road, Julia Bronson, saw a small hawk grab a tufted titmouse recently and took a photo of the successful hawk on the ground with a pile of feathers. (See the wildlife report on page 15.) The hawk was so small you might think it was a blue jay or some large birdseed eater itself. This was a sharp-shinned hawk, also called a chicken hawk, or pigeon hawk, or even a "small stub-winged bullet hawk." That's one of its names, but many folks refer to them simply as sharpies, or sharp-shins. They are so similar to Cooper's hawks that you'll often hear someone say, "I saw a Cooper's or a sharp-shin…," and if you open the books to look either one of them up, you'll find them on adjacent pages with a few details as to ways they are a little bit different. To a small bird on a feeder, they are the same: dangerous.

Male sharp-shins are ten or twelve inches long, with a twenty-inch wingspan. They weigh about one-quarter-of-a-pound. The females are a little bigger and about twice the weight of the males. Both are slatey blue-grey above with reddish-orange bars across the breast and a long tail with broad dark bands. Their shins, or legs, might look "sharp" to some. They are slim and yellow, and one writer refers to them as being "stick-like." Young sharp-shins have yellow eyes, but the eyes of the adults are dark red. They can fly fast through thick woods, darting around trees. They prey upon smaller birds, sometimes mammals such as mice or bats, and snakes, frogs, or large insects.

Here in Massachusetts, the sharp-shins nest from early May to mid-June. They lay four or five eggs and both parents incubate them for four weeks, when they hatch. Then the parents work hard to feed each youngster three or four small birds a day. Mostly they bring birds that are the size of sparrows, or up to the size of a blue jay, but sharp-shins have been known to grab pileated woodpeckers, wood ducks, and full-grown chickens.

Some people consider any predator to be vicious, murderous, maybe evil. Edward Howe Forbush, writing in 1926, says this of the sharp-shin, "When not hungry it apparently does not kill for sport and many times it has been seen flying near small birds without making an attempt to molest them; again it may strike as if in play or practice without harming the object of its rush." In the case of the titmouse and

Fully Insured
Licensed
Dan Lewis
CARPENTER
Repairs - Remodeling - Restorations
233 Main Rd
Monterey, MA
413-528-2525
since 1987

WILD BIRDS
COUNTRY STORE
In the market for a new home?
We have a wonderful selection of 1 - 4 bedroom homes, ready to move in and priced to sell.
783 South Main Street
Great Barrington, MA | 413-644-9007
www.facebook.com/WildBirdsCountryStore

sharp-shin on New Marlborough Road, there was a bird feeder nearby. In fact, that story starts with a chickadee in the feeder, dead for some reason, and the titmouse pecking on it. Now we say, oh dear! Don't tell me this was a murderous and vicious titmouse. Probably the titmouse, like the sharp-shin, was a hungry bird, eating. I have brought home road-killed chipmunks and squirrels to our chickens because I know they sure prefer meat to grain. And if a marauder leaves a torn-up chicken body in the yard or in the henhouse, the other chickens will not let it go to waste.

What we don't know in the New Marlborough Road sharp-shin story is how that chickadee came to keel over in the bird feeder. In this case, that is the prequel, the story we get to make up.

—Bonner McAllester

Arriving Where We Started: Portraits of Family and Friends

Dorene Beller Marc Simmons

March 10 - April 22

Reception: Saturday, March 25 6:30-8pm

KNOX GALLERY

Monterey Library

Eleanor Bounous

Watercolors

through March 4

Knox Gallery supported by Friends of the Monterey Library

Orchid Blossom Healing Arts

Classical Acupuncture

Zen Shiatsu

Lauren Paul, Dipl. Ac.

Licensed in CT and MA

Call for an appointment

413-258-4296

Having a Good Day

Life certainly has its setbacks and disappointments, but that's not the whole story. Some uplifting moments do get mixed in. When that happens we're given a lift, encouraged to keep on going. Consider the following:

- A police car, lights flashing, rapidly pulls up behind you, but then passes on, in pursuit of another vehicle.
- A flashlight, long unused, actually works when suddenly needed.
- Unexpectedly, someone else at the table picks up the check.
- How you felt when the last guest has left your party.
- Remembering a name you thought you'd never recall.
- The smell of freshly ground coffee.

And for this month especially:

- The first day of "daylight savings."

Send your moments of "having a good day" to the *Monterey News* and watch them appear here and there.

—Richard Skolnik

Send to: montereynews9@gmail.com

Bottomline Builders

Monterey, MA · (413) 528-1260

We are a detail-oriented, full-service, hands-on contracting and building company located in Monterey, MA. From foundation to finish, we provide the know-how to 'exceed your expectations.' Whether you want a built-in bookcase, a new sunroom, family room, or your new country home, our crew delivers the craftsmanship and courtesy you expect and deserve.

PO Box 567

155 Main Road

Monterey, MA 01245

(413) 528-1260

bottomlinebuilders.com

Scott Jenssen

scott@bottomlinebuilders.net

Massachusetts CSL 62673 - Massachusetts HIC 133864

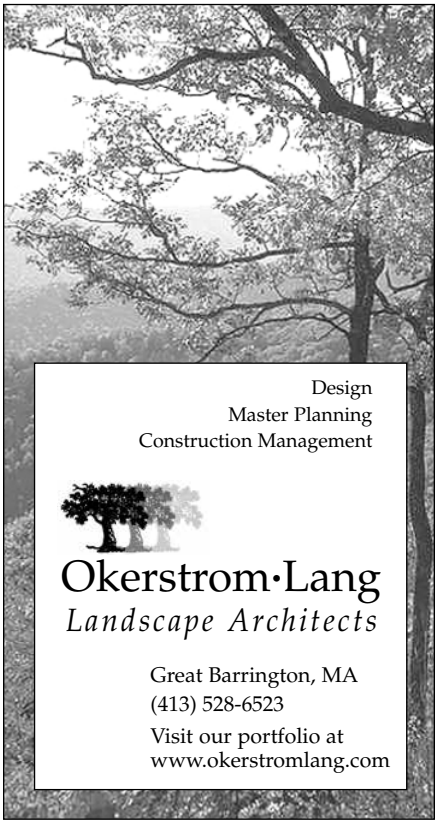
Youth Summer Cultural Grants

March 15 Deadline

Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation has set March 15 as the deadline for applications to the Simple Gifts Fund, a fund of the foundation. The fund awards grants of $200 to $800 to young people ages thirteen to nineteen for participation in cultural or creative summer programs, such as theater internships, music and art camps, or language immersion programs.

The Simple Gifts Fund was established in honor of Bill Crofut by his family. Bill was a beloved local folksinger who died in 1999. He had a deep understanding of and empathy for the dreams and aspirations of young people. He wanted to do something that could help them achieve their goals and knew that even small amounts of money could help them purchase an instrument, study dance, or participate in a summer program. He loved to foster those small steps to further great passions.

Applications and guidelines are available online at BerkshireTaconic.org/SearchGrants.



Design

Master Planning

Construction Management

Okerstrom·Lang

Landscape Architects

Great Barrington, MA

(413) 528-6523

Visit our portfolio at

www.okerstromlang.com

The Statuesque Great Blue Heron

The shoreline view from my new residence in Fairhaven, on the west side of Sconticut Neck, looking across to Mattapoisett Neck, encompasses a 180° panorama for birdwatching, including waterfowl, swans, egrets, and especially the eye-catching sentinel—great blue herons. The heron, stealthily, patiently wading in shallow water, its three-foot long body of long, slender legs and a neck compressed into an S-shaped coiled spring, is ready to strike with a sudden dagger of a bill to spear an underwater quarry.

The great blue herons is a member of the wading family Arbeides, along with local bitterns and egrets, as well as the great white herons in Florida. The herons numbers decreased through the twentieth century from the use of pesticides, industrial chemicals in the food chain, wetland draining, nesting tree cutting, and housing developments. They have rebounded, perhaps aided by global warming, to be abundant here year round, as well as across New England in freshwater ponds, lakes, and streams. Their stealthy predation includes taking frogs, snakes, salamanders, turtles, small birds, all fed to their young by regurgitation. Even owners of small goldfish ponds in backyard terraces may be surprised to see one of these large birds consume all their fish in one visit.

They usually nest in colonies in dead trees in wetlands with large platforms of sticks that they may use several years in a row. Their ceremonial mating displays consist of ruffling feathers and stretching necks upward with beaks pointing to the sky and flying in circles around each other while snapping their bills to get attention. Feeding a family is a two-partner effort, and at the Berkshire Hatchery, where I volunteered before moving to Buzzards Bay, great blue herons were frequent daily visitors to find a handout of fresh trout (or sushi to you and me), a vital tasty source of iron and protein for growing offspring. Eagles were also sometime scroungers at the first light of day when we threw them fish from the few floating deceased we found the night before.

One morning the hatchery manager was feeding our avian friends when members of the Mic Mac Indian tribe appeared. They had previously arranged for a donation of brood-stock lake trout to raise to improve their diet and to help correct a propensity for obesity and diabetes among their children. When they saw eagles and great blue herons they felt rewarded, as both were sacred symbols of most inland tribes, known together as Algonquin native culture. The great blue herons earned the name of *shawangasa*, or spirit of the waters.

Looking out at dawn from the picture window of my new living room, the sight of this familiar, stately, and statuesque figure brings back memories, and inspires me to share the creative inspiration of great blue herons with you in the first light of day.

—George B. Emmons

Editor's Note: To see just how astonishing a great blue heron's ability is to ingest large prey, search on YouTube.com for "great blue heron eats…"

Camp Half Moon
Celebrating 90 Amazing Summers on Lake Buel
Sleepover & Day Camp
Boys & Girls Ages 3 to16
Flexible Sessions
Heated Pool Skate Park High Ropes
Gymnastics Zip-Line Tennis Sailing
Team Sports Dance Crafts Pottery Waterskiing Judo Archery Rocketry Golf
Yoga Camping & so much more!
info@camphalfmoon.com
www.camphalfmoon.com
Call 888 528 0940
Come Join the Fun!

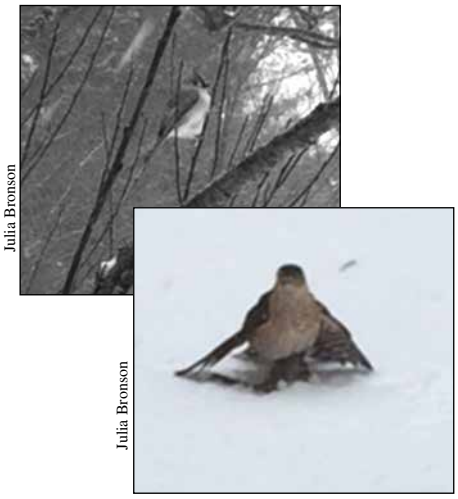
Wildlife,
Mid-January to Mid-February

Many people sent in bird reports. In most cases, these early spring birds were looking for something to eat, but some were clearly talking about love, too. We have heard downy woodpeckers drumming. The male robins have been back for about a month, foraging wherever there is open ground. I saw some in the middle of February in Tyringham, also a small active bevy of snow buntings. These remarkable visitors stay together in moving flocks, whether they are looking for snacks on the ground or jumping up into swirling flight, to land again somewhere close by for more hunting. They may also be picking up small bits of gravel along the roadside, to keep their gizzards filled with new sharp grit for chewing their food.

Dominic Stucker sent in this report from his sons Tiegen and Maddox: "Maddox and Tiegen Stucker report seeing hawks, turkeys, cardinals, deer, and squirrels in February. They also saw some three hundred Canada geese in a field along the Housatonic River in Sheffield, plus some fifty flying in 'V' formation overhead."

A highlight for the Stuckers included watching a hawk hunt a squirrel in the branches of several white pines near their home on Blue Hill Road. As the squirrel dashed toward the ground, the hawk spiraled downward around the trunk in pursuit, but was ultimately unsuccessful.

This hunting hawk, so agile among the pines, was probably a Cooper's hawk or a sharp-shinned hawk. (See article on page 12.) We have another sighting, this time from Julia Bronson on New Marlborough Road, who got a good picture of the successful sharp-shin, enjoying lunch in the snow. She also got a photo of the titmouse shortly before it became the lunch. The titmouse before and after, below:



Julia Bronson

Julia Bronson

Steve Snyder reports from Gould Farm area that Mark Little recently saw bear tracks, in the woods east of Rawson Brook. Steve saw a golden fluffy fox, one night on Curtis Road. It had "a mouthful of critter (couldn't tell what)." Down below his house, Steve has been seeing a pileated woodpecker eating grapes. He says there was recently a downy woodpecker at the farm that seemed to be injured and let people pick it up and

On February 5, I came upon bear tracks in the woods on both sides of Benedict Pond. It's probably the same one. Or were there two? —*Jay Amidon*

wonder about it, but then it flew off on its own. There is also a report of many turkeys on New Marlborough Road impeding traffic one day, and of quite a few grey squirrels that are in fact the black variety.

Here on East Hupi Road, we woke up one snowy morning to see a handsome barred owl, motionless on a branch. This was close to our birdfeeder, but the small birds at the early breakfast sitting were not at all deterred. The owl moved down closer to the ground, sitting on a fence post, waiting in vain for the rodent breakfast shift. After a half-hour or so it went off for better hunting.

There was a new rodent up and about,in mid-February near here. This was a chipmunk, sitting on a stone wall watching Joe Baker drill holes in the sugar maples. The sap is running, the chipmunk is up from its long sleep: spring is here.

Thanks for all your reports!

—Bonner McAllester
528-9385 or bonnermca@gmail.com

Provisions & Produce
Prepared foods
Pastries
Breakfast & Lunch

And so much more...
Open every day!

448 Main Road.
528-5900
www.monterey-general-store.com

M G S
MONTEREY
GENERAL STORE
EST. 1780

MONTEREY LIBRARY

Ask about museum passes!

Monday.....7–9 p.m.
Tuesday ..... 9 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
Wednesday .....2–5 p.m.
Thursday .....4–6 p.m.
Friday.....4–8 p.m.
Saturday .. 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
.....7–9 p.m.

Phone 528-3795

South County Youth Baseball Sign-Ups.

Sign-ups for Monterey, Otis, Sandisfield, Great Barrington, and surrounding towns' youth baseball players ages four to twelve have started. There are four age-group teams for players ages four through seven (beginners), seven through nine (rookies), eight through ten (experienced players), and eleven and twelve-year-old (major league) players. Activities for all groups except majors are at Greene Park on Route 23 in Monterey, behind the town hall. Majors players practice and play at the Steiner school, 35 West Plain Road, in Great Barrington. The cost per player is $50 with a maximum of $75 per family. Financial assistance is available.

The baseball season starts around May 1 and runs through June. To sign up, please send name, address, age, phone number, and email address, with payment, to South County Cal Ripken Baseball League, PO Box 11, Monterey, MA 01245, Attention: Jim Edelman. For more info, email sgraves8@yahoo.com. —Steve Graves

February 2017 Contributors

Richard & Louise Skolnik
Brenda Pace
Laura & Stuart Litwin
Christine & Gregory Fahlund

We are racing towards our cash-flow finish line before our annual spring fund appeal. We hope that all the readers of the *Monterey News* will be able to support the paper for another year of free news and information about our town.

Thank you for your support.

Harvest Barn Bakery
at Gould Farm

Sat & Sun 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
(Self-Serve Wed - Fri 9:00 - 3:00)

Gould Road in Monterey
413.644.9718

GOULD FARM
Harvesting Hope • Promoting Recovery

Barnbrook
www.BarnbrookRealty.com

DAGMAR KUBES
Broker Associate, ABR
★
Superior Real-Estate Service tailored to your needs.
★
413 528-6485
E-mail: dagmarrealty@verizon.net
SELL * BUY * RENT

MONTEREY UNITED
CHURCH OF CHRIST
Sunday Service · 10 a.m.
in the Meeting House
Elizabeth Goodman, Pastor
For Information
or Assistance:
413-528-5850
www.montereychurch.org
Find us on Facebook too.

IN 2015, BERKSHIRE PROPERTY AGENTS BROUGHT THE BUYERS TO 9 OF THE 17 RESIDENTIAL SALES IN MONTEREY.* PLEASE LET US HELP YOU SELL YOUR HOME.

12 RAILROAD ST
GREAT BARRINGTON MA

*BASED ON BERKSHIRE BOARD OF REALTORS FIGURES

BERKSHIRE PROPERTY AGENTS.COM
413 528 6800

CHARLES J. FERRIS
Attorney at Law

500 Main St. Gt. Barrington, MA 01230
617 Main Rd. PO Box 63
Monterey, MA 01245

ADMITTED TO PRACTICE
IN MASSACHUSETTS AND NEW YORK

Free Consultation
on any Legal Matter

Evening and Weekend
Appointments Available

PHONE (413) 528-8900
FAX (413) 528-9132

Thai Yoga Bodywork

Local References *Sliding Scale*

with

KIT PATTEN

Lotus Palm School Certified

"The best massage I ever had." –E.D., Monterey

413-528-3798

Boot Reboot

Join us for an evening of true stories shared and then retold through improv theater. Explore themes of beginning again, getting kicked when we're down, muddy boots, and more. All ages are welcome.

Monterey performance at the Monterey Meetinghouse
Saturday, March 25, at 7 p.m. Doors at 6:45 p.m.
Cost: Your stories and a free-will offering to benefit Gould Farm.

RiverCrossing Improv Theater comes to western Massachusetts from central Pennsylvania. Learn more about them at: RiverCrossingplayback.org
For more information, email Shelly Ungemach at shellyungemach@gmail.com, or call 717-383-6566.

G. E. MUNSON SATELLITE & PROPERTY CARE

DISH NETWORK/DIRECTV
SATELLITE INTERNET
HD TV ANTENNA SYSTEMS
HOME THEATRE &
SURROUND SOUND SYSTEMS

SEASONAL CARETAKING
YEAR-ROUND MAINTENANCE
OF YOUR HOME & PROPERTY

call George **(413) 258-4887**
email: munsonsat@aol.com
P.O. Box 518, Monterey, MA 01255
(fully insured)

Susan M. Smith
Attorney At Law

38 Mahaiwe St., Suite 1
Great Barrington
Massachusetts 01230

Telephone: (413) 229-7080
Facsimile: (413) 229-7085
Email: ssmithlaw@hughes.net

Woodruff Mountain
Landscaping

Whether you are looking to renovate, rejuvenate, or just simply maintain your existing landscape, please contact Woodruff Mountain Landscaping to help you.
We offer a full line of outdoor services and are fully equipped and properly trained to help with any landscape construction project; excavation, stone walls & patios, tree & plant care, and driveway repair, to name a few.

Please call Tom Brazie to further discuss your projects needs.
References and portfolios available upon request.
Proudly servicing our area for over 15 years.

413-229-2919
woodruffmountain@aol.com

For those who believe a second home should still be first class

WILLIAM BROCKMAN
real estate
www.berkshiresforsale.com
413.528.4859

Select Board Corner

Welcome to the Select Board Corner. Our goal is to submit an article each month to the *Monterey News* to keep everyone up to date on important issues, office closings, highway projects, etc. This article may be especially important for those who cannot access our website. This is a work in progress, and we welcome any comments or suggestions on the articles.

www.MontereyMA.gov

Our town website is a great way to access information about the town.

Meetings and Events

Special Town Meeting: Thursday, March 2, at 7 p.m., at the firehouse.

Board of Health: Monday, March 6 and 20, at 4 p.m. Please call 528-1443 x111 to be placed on the agenda.

Chair Yoga: Tuesdays, 9 to 10 a.m.

Conservation Commission: Tuesday, March 14, at 6 p.m.

Council on Aging: Mondays, March 13 and 27, at 10 a.m.

Visiting Nurse: Berkshire VNA, Thursday, March 9, from 2 to 3 p.m. No appointment necessary.

Foot Nurse: Thursday, March 9, 9 to 11:30 a.m., by appointment (please call 528-1443 x247). $25. All ages are welcome.

Parks Commission: Wednesday, March 1, at 6 p.m.

Planning Board: Thursdays, March 9 and 23, at 7 p.m. Please call Maggie Leonard at 528-9685 to be placed on the agenda.

Select Board: Wednesdays, March 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 at 9 a.m. Please call 528-1443 x111 to be placed on the agenda.

Town Hall Closings

Individual office closings are posted on the town calendar and on the department's voicemail message.

We recommend always calling ahead.

Other News

One of the hidden aspects of living in the Berkshires is the high cost of housing for many who live and work here full-time. In Monterey, the value of existing land and housing makes it very difficult for those in the low-to-moderate income brackets to purchase or rent. At the same time, Monterey has more than 35% of our full-time residents over sixty-five years old, and for many who want to age in place, the cost of repairs and upkeep is proving overwhelming. What can we do?

This has been a concern of the select board for some time. We are now in a position to take a first step to combating this serious issue. The select board is proposing to work with Bailey Boyd Associates to offer a program geared toward those of low-to-moderate income who find themselves in housing that needs more work than they can afford. The monies available come from the MA Department of Housing and Community Development and can be used for, but is not limited to, door and/or window replacements, heating system upgrades, weatherization projects, septic system failures, building code violations, hazardous materials abatement, removal of architectural barriers for accessibility, etc. The maximum loan/grant per household is $40,000, which will be administered by the Bailey Boyd Associates through a grant administrator. There is no cost to the town except for an initial $20,000 to be taken from our stabilization fund and put into a contingency fund, which will be returned to the stabilization after eighteen months.

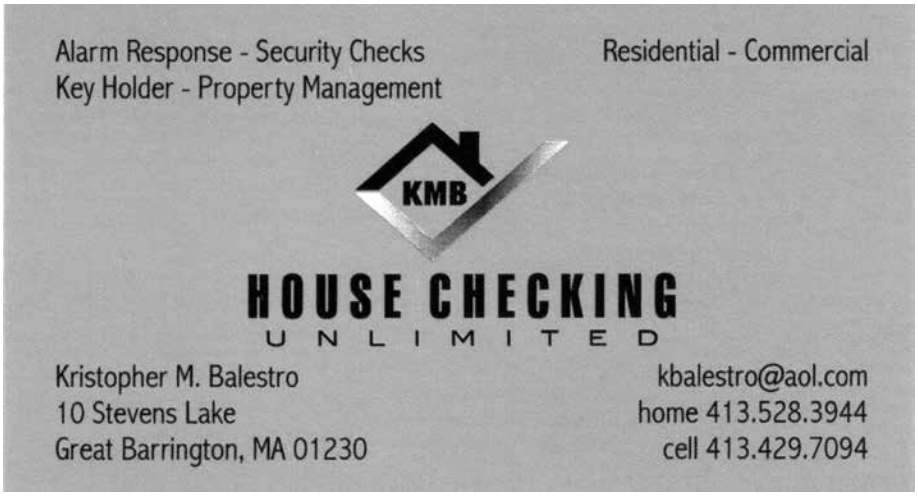
The assistance granted to individual homeowners will take the form of a "deferred payment forgivable loan" (DPFL) with 0% interest. The DPFL will be forgiven by 1/15 each year. This means that if the homeowner remains in the home for fifteen years then the loan will be forgiven with no cost to the homeowner. If the home is sold, the portion of the loan left will be paid back as part of the sale.

This program is also available to those that own rental units, but there must be a commitment to keeping the apartment for low-to-moderate income tenants.

If you are interested in learning more, or participating in the program, please fill out the survey mailed with your town meeting warrant, or contact Bailey Boyd Associates, Inc. for an application.
Bailey Boyd Associates, BaileyBoyd.com
12 Sandisfield Road
Sandisfield, MA 01255
email at: aboyd@baileyboyd.com
All information will be kept confidential.

—Kenn Basler, Chair
Steve Weisz and Carol Edelman
Monterey Select Board
(kenn@montereyma.gov)
(steve@montereyma.gov)
(carol@montereyma.gov)

For general inquiries, please click "Contact Us" at montereyma.gov.



Calendar

Every Tuesday:
Chair Yoga with Connie Wilson, 9 to 10 a.m., Monterey Town Hall. Free, sponsored by Monterey Parks Commission.
Cards and Games, 12:30, at town hall. Sponsored by the Council on Aging.
Tuesday, March 2: Special town meeting, 7 p.m., at the firehouse.
Thursday, March 9:
Foot nurse, 9 to 11:30 a.m., at town hall, by appointment (please call 528-1443 x247). $25. All ages are welcome.
Berkshire VNA blood pressure and wellness clinic, from 2 to 3 p.m. No appointment necessary.
Friday, March 10: Knox Gallery, *Arriving Where We Started* opens. See page 7.
Saturday, March 11: Rabies clinic, 9 to 11:30 a.m. See page 3.
Monday, March 13: Lake Garfield Working Group, seeking public input. 7 p.m., at town hall. See page 4–5.
Wednesday, March 15:
Simple Gifts youth cultural activities grant applications due to Berkshire Taconic Foundation. See page 13.
Community potluck dinner, 6 p.m., Monterey Meetinghouse. Hear about Sandisfield residents' work with Syrian refugees. See page 8.
Saturday, March 18: Lenox Contra Dance: Music by Guiding Star Ramblers; calling by Katy Heine. All dances taught. 8:30 to 11:30 p.m., beginners session at 8. Lenox Community Center, 65 Walker St. LenoxContraDance.org, or call 528-4007 for information.
Monday, March 20:
Monterey News deadline.
Finance Committee public meeting to discuss FY2018 budget. At town hall, 6:30 p.m. See page 2.
Saturday, March 25:
Democratic town committee caucus, 9 a.m., church basement. See page 2.
Republican town committee caucus, 1:30 p.m., church basement. See page 2.
Knox Gallery reception for *Arriving Where We Started*, 6 to 7:30, Knox Gallery.
Boot-Reboot, free improv theatre performance to benefit Gould Farm, Monterey United Church of Christ, 7 p.m. See page 17.
Monday, March 27: Adult book group meets to discuss *The Duke of Deception*, by Geoffrey Wolffe, 7:30 p.m., Monterey Library.
Saturday, April 1: McLaughlin-Wilson scholarship applications due to Berkshire Taconic Foundation. See page 8.

I will give my dream
To a passing bird
So that he will sing
And my heart will be heard

All can listen
But only one will hear
The beating, beating
Of my love in the air.

—Lesley Givet , March 1997

Town Contact Information Emergency! 911

Town Administrator
528-1443 x119
townadmin@montereyma.gov
Administrative Assistant:
528-1443 x111
admin@montereyma.gov
(for town boards and misc. questions)
Assessor: 528-1443 x115
assessors@montereyma.gov
Building Department: 528-1443 x118
buildingsafety@montereyma.gov
Fire Department (non-emergency):
528-3136
fire_service@montereyfire.org

Highway Department.: 528-1734
mhwy@verizon.net
Library: 528-3795 montereylibrary@gmail.com
Police Department (non-emergency):
528-1443 x116,
Alternate emergency 528-3211
mpdchief@montereyma.gov
Post Office: 528-4670
Tax Collector: 528-1443 x117
montereytax@yahoo.com
(for questions about your tax bill)
Town Clerk: 528-1443 x113
clerk@montereyma.gov

Monterey News

The *Monterey News* is an independent nonprofit corporation dedicated to fostering communication in the Monterey community. Our editorial address is PO Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs. Submissions may also be sent to the email address below. Address requests for advertising rates and further information to the Editor, or telephone us at 413-528-4007 or email montereynews9@gmail.com.

Transfer Station Winter Hours Ending

Sunday, March 5	10 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.
Starting March 12	10 a.m.– 6 p.m.
Wednesday	8 a.m.–1 p.m.
Saturday	8 a.m.–1 p.m.

Maureen Banner

Melting vole tunnels.

Hockey Rink Schedule:

Youth hockey: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday evenings from 7 to 9.
Adult hockey:
Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 7 to 9.
Sunday mornings from 9:30 to 11:30.
Mt. Everett High School hockey team plays Sunday evenings from 7 to 9.
All other times are shared with figure skaters, families, and recreational skaters—so skate responsibly! Please shovel before you leave.
For updates—call Parks Dept. at 528-1443 x248 (voicemail), or
Facebook—Monterey MA OutdoorSkating Rink

MONTEREY NEWS
PO Box 9
Monterey, MA 01245-0009

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
GREAT BARRINGTON MA
PERMIT NO 95

Change Service Requested

Rick Mielke

Seasonal Caretaking
Professional Year-Round Maintenance of Your House and Grounds

Celebrating over 30 years in business

528-0864

We Return Your Calls
Since 1975 • Fully Equipped • Fully Insured
P. O. Box 211, Monterey, MA 01245

Buying or selling your home in the Berkshires?
Corashire Realty, now in our 50th year!

CORASHIRE REALTY

Nancy Dinan, founder

Deborah D. Mielke
(O) 413-528-0014
(H) 413-528-1871
(C) 413-329-8000
corashirerealty@gmail.com

To see our Monterey Listings please visit
www.corashire.com
Also use our link to view other offerings in MLS.

Copyright © Monterey News 2017
email: montereynews9@gmail.com

Editor.....Stephen Moore
Copy Editor..... Kateri Kosek
Mailing Labels ..... Joe Baker
Treasurer ..... Steve Pullen

Contributions from local artists this month:
Maureen Banner, p. 8, George Emmons, p. 14;
Bonner McAllester, p. 12.

BIZEN

Freshest Sushi Quality Fish • Organic Vegetables
Japanese Estate Sakes • Unfiltered Dessert Sakes

備前

On the Cutting Edge

"Where to Eat Sushi" in the Berkshires.
The New York Times

Gourmet Japanese Cuisine & Sushi Bar
17 Railroad Street, Great Barrington, Mass.
413-528-4343
Lunch Mon.-Fri. 12:00-2:30; Sat. & Sun. 12-3:00 • Dinner 7 Days 5-10